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E.O. 12356: OADR  
 TAGS: PARM, UNGA  
 SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FREE ZONES

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY. EGYPTIAN PERM REP ABDEL MEGUID TOLD ROSTOW OCTOBER 25 THAT EGYPT REMAINED INTERESTED IN A MIDDLE EAST NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE. EGYPT HOPED FOR UNGA RES ASKING UNSYG TO APPOINT AN EXPERT AS SPECIAL COMMISSIONER TO RECONCILE VIEWS OF MAJOR REGIONAL COUNTRIES ON A MENWFZ. (NO TEXT PROVIDED.) ROSTOW NOTED HIS BELIEF THAT USG WOULD CONTINUE IN ITS ROLE TO SUPPORT EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE AND WORK CLOSELY WITH EGYPT, ISRAEL AND OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES. ROSTOW ASKED IF EGYPTIANS HAD CONSULTED THE ISRAELIS. MEGUID SAID THEY HAD NOT BUT WOULD. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, FINNISH UNDER SECRETARY KORHONEN REPORTED THAT HE HAD PROPOSED TO EGYPT AND UNSYG THAT HE BE DESIGNED AS THE SYG'S REP. KORHONEN GAVE USDEL COPY OF DRAFT RES CALLING FOR REEXAMINATION OF NWFZ'S BY CD. KORHONEN REQUESTED USG VIEWS SOONEST. <  
 END SUMMARY.

3. ACDA DIRECTOR ROSTOW SAW EGYPTIAN PERM REP ABDEL MEGUID OCTOBER 25 FOR DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE(MENWFZ). ABDEL MEGUID EXPLAINED THAT EGYPT REMAINED VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE MENWFZ PROJECT, OF WHICH IT FELT ITSELF THE SPONSOR. ROSTOW SAID USG WOULD, HE BELIEVED, CONTINUE IN ROLE DEFINED LAST YEAR AS SUPPORTER OF EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE, WORKING CLOSELY WITH EGYPT, ISRAEL, AND OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES. ROSTOW AND ABDEL MEGUID AGREED THAT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAD IMPROVED MARKEDLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF EVENTS IN LEBANON, AND THAT AS THE DUST SETTLED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR MOVING FORWARD ACTIVELY ON THE PROJECT WERE GOOD. ABDEL MEGUID SAID GOE WAS GRATIFIED THAT MANY ARAB GOVERNMENTS WERE NOW WILLING TO MAKE PEACE WITH ISRAEL. HE FELT THIS DEVELOPMENT CONFIRMED THE EGYPTIAN FEELING THAT THEY HAD BEEN RIGHT TO DO SO, AND THAT THE OTHERS WERE FOLLOWING THEIR LEAD.

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4. AT UNGA, EGYPT HOPED FOR AN OUTCOME LIKE THAT WHICH IT HAD PROPOSED LAST YEAR, I.E., THE APPOINTMENT BY THE UNSYG OF AN EXPERT TO WORK AS A SPECIAL REGIONAL COMMISSIONER. THE COMMISSIONER WOULD SEEK TO RECONCILE THE VIEWS OF THE MAJOR COUNTRIES IN THE AREA THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING A MENWFZ. ABDEL MEGUID SAID THAT THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE IRAQI REACTOR HAD SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLICATED LAST YEAR'S UNGA CONSIDERATION OF THE MENWFZ IDEA. IT MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT EASIER, DESPITE THE RECENT CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE IN THE IAEA, AND THE ONE, NOW, AT THIS UNGA, TO GET A CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION THROUGH THIS UNGA.

5. ABDEL MEGUID SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF AN IMPORTANT WESTERN EUROPEAN NEUTRAL COUNTRY THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO SERVE AS THE SYG'S REP. HE COULD NOT GIVE THE US THE NAME OF THE MAN OR HIS COUNTRY.

6. ROSTOW THANKED ABDEL MEGUID FOR THE INFORMATION. HE SAID THAT USG ALSO HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SECURE A POSITIVE OUTCOME TO THE DEBATE ON MENWFZ THIS YEAR AND, WHATEVER HAPPENED AT UNGA, TO MOVE FORWARD DIPLOMATICALLY. THE TIME WAS PROPITIOUS; THE DANGER OF ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WAS EVIDENT. IT SEEMED THAT THE ISRAELIS, TOO, HAD REALIZED THAT THEIR OWN SECURITY INTERESTS WERE LIKELY TO BE BETTER SERVED BY A MENWFZ THAN BY THE PRESENT SITUATION.

7. ROSTOW ASKED WHETHER THE ISRAELIS HAD CHANGED THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING THE LEAD TAKEN BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNSYG. THEY HAD OPPOSED THE IDEA LAST YEAR. ABDEL MEGUID POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A NEW UNSYG AND A NEW AND BETTER POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. ABDEL MEGUID AND ROSTOW DISCUSSED ALTERNATIVE ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL, INCONCLUSIVELY, BECAUSE ROSTOW SAID USG HAD JUST BEGUN TO REVIEW ITS POSITION ON THE MATTER. THEY MENTIONED THESE ISSUES: CONFERENCE VERSUS CONSULTATIONS; EXPERTS VERSUS COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES; PREPARING THE GROUND FOR A CONFERENCE VERSUS SEEKING AGREEMENT WITHOUT A MEETING. ROSTOW ASKED WHETHER ABDEL MEGUID HAD YET TALKED WITH THE ISRAELI DELEGATION IN NEW YORK ABOUT THE HANDLING OF THE ISSUE THIS YEAR. ABDEL MEGUID SAID THAT HE HAD NOT. ROSTOW ENCOURAGED HIM TO DO SO AND ABDEL MEGUID SAID THAT HE WOULD.

ABDEL MEGUID SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS STILL FAVORED THE IDEA OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO SET UP A MENWFZ. ROSTOW ARGUED THAT WHATEVER VIEWS THE ISRAELIS MIGHT HAVE, IT WAS STILL ESSENTIAL THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WORK TOGETHER TO TRY TO REACH AN AGREED OUTCOME. NO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME COULD BE ENVISAGED UNTIL AFTER ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAD CONCERTED THEIR OWN POSITIONS.

8. ABDEL MEGUID SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD PERSEVERE WITH ITS IDEA OF A UNGA RESOLUTION NAMING AN SYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO EXAMINE THE IDEA. NO REPRESENTATIVE OF SYG WOULD BE APPOINTED, HOWEVER, UNLESS THE PARTIES AGREED ON THE INDIVIDUAL.

9. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, FINNISH UNDER SECRETARY KORHONEN MENTIONED TO A VISITING ACDA OFFICER OCTOBER 26 THAT HE HAD PROPOSED TO THE EGYPTIANS AND THE UNSYG THAT HE BE NAMED THE SYG REP

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(CF PARA 5). HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO RELEASE HIM FOR THE TIME NECESSARY TO TAKE ON THIS ADDITIONAL JOB. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT YET SURE OF THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE IN THIS UNGA ON THE MENWFZ ISSUE (AND NOTED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE EVE OF A PARTICULARLY BITTER DEBATE ON ISRAELI CREDENTIALS IN THE UNGA PLENARY) HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE GA WOULD DECIDE TO NAME A SPECIAL REP, AND THAT HE WOULD BE CHOSEN.

✓ 10. KORHONEN ALSO TOLD ACDAOFF THAT FINLAND HAD DECIDED THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR AN UPDATED STUDY OF THE GENERAL ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES. KORHONEN SAID THAT THE FINNS HAD ELABORATED A DRAFT RESOLUTION AND WRITTEN A BACKGROUND EXPLANATORY PAPER. (BOTH DOCUMENTS DATAFAXED TO IO/UNP AND ACDA/MA.)

11. KORHONEN SAID THAT THE FINNS HAD THUS FAR GIVEN THE DOCUMENTS TO NO OTHER DELEGATION. THEY WANTED A US REACTION TO THE WHOLE IDEA. IF IT WAS UNEQUIVOCALLY AND TOTALLY NEGATIVE THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER DROPPING THE IDEA ENTIRELY, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NEED TO BE CONVINCED. IF THE US HAD PROBLEMS WITH SPECIFIC WORDING, THE FINNS WOULD, OF COURSE, WORK WITH THE US IN ORDER TO GET AN AGREED RESOLUTION.

12. KORHONEN REQUESTED A QUICK US REPLY -- EVEN AN INTERIM ONE. KORHONEN TOLD ACDAOFF THAT THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THEIR EXERCISE, ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT THEY THOUGHT IT TIMELY IN GENERAL, WAS TO ASSIST THE US IN PUSHING THE MENWFZ IDEA.

13. ACDAOFF PROMISED A RAPID US RESPONSE TO THE FINNISH IDEA.

KIRKPATRICK  
END OF MESSAGE

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